

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAJ-01 SAM-01 CU-02 /072 W

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P R 040843Z SEP 75

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6777

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

FBIS OKINAWA

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 10320

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PROP SCUL CH

SUBJ: MAO TAGGED AS LEADING NEW CAMPAIGN

REF: HONG KONG 10241

1. THE REGIME HAS MOVED QUICKLY TO DISPEL ANY THOUGHTS THAT CHAIRMAN MAO IS UNDER ATTACK IN THE NEW CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED RECENTLY TO CRITICIZE THE SUNG DYNASTY NOVEL SHUI HU CHAN. A SEPTEMBER 4 PEOPLE'S DAILY EDITORIAL STATED THAT DISCUSSIONS OF THE NOVEL ARE "IN COMPLIANCE WITH GREAT LEADER CHAIRMAN MAO'S INSTRUCTION" AND THAT THE CHAIRMAN "RECENTLY " POINTED OUT THAT SHUI HU CHUAN IS A TEACHING MATERIAL BY NEGATIVE EXAMPLE BECAUSE, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE NOVEL " ONLY OPPOSED CORRUPT OFFICIALS
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BUT NOT THE EMPEROR". (NCNA DOMESITC SERVICE SEPTEMBER 3)

2. HOWEVER, PERHAPS EVEN MORE SIGNIFICANT THAN CLARIFYING MAO'S POSITION ON THE NOVEL, IS THE WAY THE EDITORIAL CLEARLY MAKES THE SHUI HU CRITICISM A "COMPONENT PARTY" OF THE DICTATORSHIP CAMPAIGN. IN ADDITION, THE EDITORIAL EXTOLLS THE CAMPAIGN TO STUDY SHUI HU FOR ITS LONG-TERM SIGNIFICANCE PARTICULARLY IN THE SPHERES OF "LITERATURE, PHILOSOPHY, HISTORY, AND EDUCATION", THUS SOMEWHAT DEFUSING IT AS A SPECIFIC ATTACK ON CURRENT FIGURES.

3. THE EDITORIAL ARGUES THAT THE CRIMES OF SUNG CHIANG WERE EXEMPLIFIED BY BOTH LIU SHAO-CHI AND LIN BIAO--- NO OTHERS ARE EVEN IMPLIED-- WHO BETRAYED SOCIALISM INTERNALLY IN CHINA AND WHO ALSO "CAPITULATED TO SOVIET REVISIONIST SOCIAL-IMPERIALISM". CLEARLY DESIGNED TO KEEP THIS CAMPAIGN, LIKE THE DICTATORSHIP CAMPAIGN, WITHIN CLOSELY DEFINED PARAMETERS, THE EDITORIAL CLOSES ON A PITCH FOR UNITY CITING MAO'S THREE DO'S AND THREE DON'TS AND HIS QUOTATION "WE MUST UNITE ALL FORCES THAT CAN BE UNITED AND CRITICIZE REVISIONISM TO PUSH FORWARD SOCIALIST REVOLUTION AND CONSTRUCTION".

4. COMMENT: THE PEOPLE'S DAILY EDITORIAL HAS MADE CLEAR THAT MAO HIMSELF WAS BEHIND THE LAUNCHING OF THIS CAMPAIGN AND THAT IN EFFECT IT WAS HIS QUOTATIONS FROM WHICH THE VARIOUS COMMENTARIES AND CRITICISM OF THE SHUI HU HAVE BEEN DRAWN. THE EMPHASIS ON KEEPING THIS A STUDY EFFORT AND CONSISTENT WITH REGIME POLICIES OF "UNITY" MAKES CLEAR THAT PEKING WAS AWARE OF THE POTENTIAL DISRUPTIVE NATURE OF THIS CAMPAIGN AND IS TAKING EARLY STEPS TO KEEP IT UNDER CONTROL. IT IS OBVIOUS THAT THIS POINT WAS WELL TAKEN AS WE NOTE THAT A CANTON NAN FANG JIH PAO ARTICLE OF SEPTEMBER 2 ALREADY INDICATED INTENT TO USE THE STUDY TO "BETTER IDENTIFY THE CAPITULATIONISTS AND OPPOSE THE CAPITULATIONISTS".
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